

LES ASPIN

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well this morning for the same reason the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] did, to say that this weekend our Nation has lost a very stalwart son and a good friend of ours. To many of us here, he was an especially good friend.

Les Aspin's untimely death at the age of 56, after suffering a massive stroke on Saturday, underscores both how much he accomplished and yet how much more he could have done. In the days ahead we are going to be reminded of those accomplishments as we seek to send sympathy and comfort to his family and those close to him. I am sure that important and caring leaders in many places around the world will remember to say, I knew Les, what a great job he did for this country for so many years. Equally, many just plain folks who knew Les around town here or back in his longtime Wisconsin congressional district or wherever it was will say, I knew Les. What a great guy.

Mr. Speaker, as a classmate and a friend for many years at college and as a colleague here in Congress for a while and finally as a member of the Commission on Intelligence Roles and Capabilities, which is better and properly known simply as the Aspin Commission, which he was chairing at the time of his death, I had the privilege and the fun of knowing Les and working with him. I think the statement that I read this morning of his cardiologist and the news accounts says it best: It says simply, Les was an extraordinarily fine man. For those of us who knew him in this body, that vote is unanimous.

TRIBUTE TO A GOOD FRIEND AND GREAT AMERICAN

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise to pay tribute to my good friend Les Aspin. This is a man who was never about power or never about pretense. He was about public service and the highest quality of public service. He truly gave it his all, every single day he got out of bed. No taxpayer could ever complain that Les Aspin did not put his whole self into what he was doing, no matter what it was.

We have really, indeed, lost a great mind, a very energetic person, and a person who did not come with a certain ideology but came, instead, to listen to the facts and try and do what was right.

One of the things that he did as Secretary of Defense that probably will go unnoticed but should not go unnoticed is he was brave enough to start putting some of the rhetoric aside and open the

doors for many of America's young women who had been waiting outside that door to serve more fully in the armed services. Les was the kind of guy who would look at the studies, who would look at the performance ratings, who would look at the tests, and who would say, of course, they can.

There is absolutely no reason except bias and prejudice that they cannot move forward. He opened those doors, and many of the young women proudly serving today in America's military can be looking to Les Aspin and saying, thank you, because he was the one who put aside many of those superstitions and moved that forward.

But that was the kind of person who he was. We will miss that kind of person very desperately and I will miss him as a friend.

IN MEMORY OF LES ASPIN

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, "HARMAN, how ya' doing?"

That was Les Aspin's upbeat greeting each time we spoke.

His tennis game was not much, but he sure was.

Loyal always to his beloved Wisconsin. A man who loved the House and excelled at the legislative function. A big thinker on defense issues who probably contributed more to conceptualizing our modern defense policy than anyone else. And a true friend.

He was certainly there for me as I laid my plans to run for public office for the first time in my middle age.

He helped me strategize, he reviewed issues, he gave me credibility, and he personally came to California to campaign for me.

After I won, he was there for counsel. And I tried to be there for him too in some tough times.

Through it all, he was upbeat. Scarcely a week after his pacemaker was inserted in 1993, Defense Secretary Aspin testified for a marathon 10 hours before his beloved House Armed Services Committee. Near the end, this freshman was temporarily in the chair. When he saw me, he laughed. "Oh," he said, "when they said there was reform up here, I had no idea it would go this far!"

Aspin, I will miss you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect that on Thursday, May 18, 1995, I was incorrectly recorded as "aye" on rollcall No. 343, the Neumann substitute to the budget resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 67. I should have been recorded in opposition to this resolution.

MEDICARE BUDGET CUTS

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am receiving a number of letters from my constituents back home in addressing the budget cuts in the Medicare budget, cuts as being proposed by the new Republican majority in this Congress. As I read through all of the letters that my constituents are sending to me, they do not feel that it is fair in America for the elderly to add on an additional \$1,000 in costs and additional premiums for Medicare.

It is true that we must do something about the huge deficits that we are faced with, but we know that we ought to share that responsibility among all Americans. For the Republicans to think that children and the elderly population of this Nation should bear that brunt, it is wrong.

Just to share a few things with you that I am receiving in the mail, senior citizens are saying the need to fix Social Security and Medicare can no longer be denied. They acknowledge the fact that we can no longer deny it. They say it can be done. And we as Republicans and Democrats in this House can work together in a bipartisan spirit to do so.

I do not think that we ought to say to the wealthy and the rich of this Nation, yes, just for your \$350 billion tax cut, we are going to increase and cut the Medicare Program in a fashion that will cause burden and undue harm to the elderly population of this country.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TERM LIMITS RULING BY SUPREME COURT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as many people know, the Supreme Court just came down with a five to four decision on term limits, saying that the